









### Post-Office Notifications.

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**MAILS BY THE ENGLISH PACKET.**  
The English Contract Packet, **7 A.M.**  
**WEDNESDAY**, with the Mails for  
Europe, &c., on **SATURDAY**, the 25th inst.  
The following will be the hours of closing the  
Mails, &c. :—  
**Friday, 23rd inst.,**  
5 A.M. Mails, & Order Office closes.  
6 P.M. Post Office closes except the NORTHERN  
Box, which remains open all night.  
**Saturday, 24th inst.,**  
7 A.M. Post Office opens for sale  
of Letters, & Registrar of Letters, and Paying  
of all correspondence.  
10 A.M. Post Office closes (except for Letters  
only). Registrar of Letters closes.  
10.15 A.M. Letters may be posted on the NORTHERN  
Box, at a rate of 18 cents extra  
postage, until  
11 A.M. when the Post Office CLOSURES  
entirely.  
11.30 A.M. Letters (but Letters only) addressed  
to the United Kingdom by a British

or to Singapore, may be posted  
board the Packet on payment of  
Late Fee of 45 cents extra postage.  
11.50 a.m., Posting on Board cases.

**ALFRED LISTER,**  
*Postmaster General*

General Post Office,  
Hongkong, 18th September, 1875.

**MAILS BY THE FRENCH PACKET.**  
The French Contract Packet "ANADY" will be despatched on SATURDAY, 2nd October, with Mails to and through the United Kingdom and Mercantile to Europe, Spain, Singapore, Galle, Australia, New Zealand, Aden, Seychelles, Reunion, Mauritius, St. Helena and Alexandria.

The following will be the hours of closing for Mails:

October 1st.  
5 P.M., Money Order Office closes. Post Office closes except the NIGHT BOX, which remains open all night.

October 2nd.  
4 P.M., Post Office opens for sale

Stamps, Registry of Letters, and Posting of all correspondence.  
 10 A.M., Registry of Letters cases.  
 11 A.M., Post Office cases except for Letters.  
 11.10 A.M., Letters (but Letters only) addressed to the United Kingdom or to Singapore may be posted on payment of the Post Fee of 15 cents extra *per* card, until  
 11.50 A.M., when the Post Office CLOSING entirely.  
**ALFRED LISPER,**  
*Postmaster General*  
 General Post Office,  
 Hongkong, 20th September, 1875.

**MAILS BY THE UNITED STATES STEAMSHIP COMPANY TO PEKING**  
 The United States Mail Packet "CHINA" will be despatched on FRIDAY, the 15th October, at 3 P.M., with the Mail—  
 For Yokohama, San Francisco, the United States, and the West Indies.  
 The Post Office will be open for the receipt

Letters can be posted on board the Passengers' Steamer to \$50 p.m. on payment of Late Fee of 11 cents in addition to the Postage.

The Prepayment of the Postage to all above places by this rate is computed Correspondence insufficiently prepaid will be forwarded by the Bangkok Post Office.

Correspondence addressed to Yokohama or the United States must be superscribed "CHINA," that addressed to the United Kingdom must be superscribed "via France."

ALFRED LISTER, *Postmaster General*  
 General Post Office,  
 Hongkong, 17th September, 1875.

The following reduced Rates of Postage take effect from this day:—

	<i>Foot</i>
Letters, Newspapers, Packages	<i>Postage</i>
PORTUGAL—	<i>Cents.</i>
Lisbon, Oporto, Coimbra	<i>Cent.</i>
Lisbon, Oporto, Coimbra	<i>Cent.</i>

20ZORES ISLANDS...			
Via Brindisi, ...	40 per c. oz.	8	14 per c.
Via Marseilles, ...		6	8 per c.
Via Southampton, 34 per c. oz.		6	8 per c.
CANAL OF SUEZ ISLANDS...			
Via Brindisi, ...	54 per c. oz.	8	12 per c.
Via Marseilles, ...		6	6 per c.
Via Southampton, 28 per c. oz.		6	6 per c.
HONG KONG AND HAWAII...			
Via Brindisi, ...	36 per c. oz.	10	14 per c.
Via Marseilles, ...		8	8 per c.
Via Southampton, 30 per c. oz.		8	8 per c.
ALERTED MASTER, Postmaster General			
General Post Office, Hongkong, 5th August, 1876.			

The Postmaster at San Francisco has given notice that letters despatched from this Col. (whether through the Post Office, or as "signed" letters) by the United States M. P. Packets, will not be forwarded to any place...

not within the United States, unless the Postmaster General is satisfied that the postage thereon has been paid. For the purpose of this Act, the United States shall be deemed to include the Possessions of the United States.

Postage from America to such places will be pre-paid in American Postage Stamps, but will be returned to this Office.

Such letters should either be placed in the Hongkong and American Stamps as above specified, or an Agent in the United States.

The following rates apply to the above places, the American rates of Postage to which are as follows:—

	LETTERS.		NEWSPAPERS.		BOOKS.	
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
Hongkong, .....	6	per oz.	2	4	per oz.	4
Brasil, .....	15	"	10	"	10	"
Pere, Ohiol, &c., 23	"	"	10	"	10	"

ALFRED LISTER,  
Postmaster General.

General Post Office,  
Hongkong, 12th July, 1875.

It is hereby notified for general information that henceforward the Postage on Letters addressed to Hawaii, will be reduced to 4 cents per ounce. Letters addressed to Hawaii will be reduced to 4 cents per ounce.

per half-cunce.

**F. W. MITCHELL,**  
*Postmaster-General*

General Post Office, Hongkong.

It is hereby notified that the rates of post chargeable hitherto on Letters addressed to the United Kingdom, and to places beyond the United Kingdom, when forwarded by Post Packet, will be the same as those chargeable on Letters forwarded by British Packet via B. diel.

**F. W. MITCHELL,**  
*Postmaster-General*

General Post Office, Hongkong.

It is hereby notified that Letters addressed to France may be sent either paid or unpaid at the option of the sender, but the postage on Prison Current, Newspapers and Books cannot be prepaid

*For each 20*

The rate of postage chargeable on Letters addressed to France may be sent by French Packet to Havre on 12<sup>th</sup> of

Per British Packet when marked via  
Brindisi..... 18  
Per British Packet when marked via  
Alexandria and Marseilles..... 12  
F. W. MITCHELL,  
Postmaster General  
General Post-Office, Hongkong.



## Extracts.

**SUBMISSION.**  
The swiftest and the strongest;  
Slightly the sunset's lingering light;  
Lays over rock and turf,  
And nowhere where the restless mist  
Tosses on high the plumes of white.

Gently and clear the sparrow sings,  
While twilight steals across the sea,  
And still and bright the evening star  
Twinkles above the golden bar,  
That in the west lies quiet.

Oh! stealthily the sparrow sings,  
And sweet the sound, and sweet the touch  
Of sweetest wings; and sweet the sight  
Of happy Nature's deep delight  
As her fair spirit, loosed so much!

But while we sleep the sparrow sings  
A cry of death in its own throat;  
The craning of the river wreck  
Breaks that sleep, and shows the shocking deck,  
And sounds of agony and fear.

How is it that the bird can sing  
Life is so full of joy and light,  
Hearts are so full of gladness and grief!  
We are so long and joy so brief;  
Nor shall the last return again.

Though reproachfully the sparrow sings,  
No bird of Nature can restore  
The friends which heaven has clapped to earth,  
Sweet souls that through the light and dark  
Drove from the earth for evermore.

Yet still the sparrow sings and sings,  
Till morning, meaning, answering love,  
Cries to find what hope may be  
Within the heart, and what it will  
Beside the empty grave above.

And, listening, while the sparrow sings,  
And while the sunset falls,  
See, through the evening trees that bend,  
A little light, and seems to find  
And close God's hand, who wrought it all.

—Harper's Magazine.

## NEW GUINEA.

## ITS PEOPLE AND THEIR CUSTOMS.

## THE VILLAGES.

## No trace of human dwellings can be

## seen from the deck of a vessel in the Astro-

## labay Bay, only here and there columns

## of smoke arise, which indicate the presence

## of human beings; but not always so. The whole

## beach is lined by a dense scrub.

## On closely examining the coast with a

## telescope, patches of palm trees, which are

## together in detached places, will probably be

## conspicuous. On landing near one of

## these groups, and after searching awhile,

## canoes, with outriggers, can be found drawn

## up on the beach, or hidden in the bushes.

## On walking along the strand a path may

## be met with, leading into the wood in the

## direction of the group of palm trees. High

## roofs seen among the trees, and the path

## ends in an open space, surrounded by

## bushes shaded by palms and bananas. Seen

## from the side, these huts appear to consist

## solely of the roof, the side walls are not

## higher from the ground than twenty inches.

## The entrance is at the front, which is often

## shaded by a projecting beam of timber. It

## sometimes is for a lower and higher hut is

## in the centre of the smaller one, and is open

## at both ends, and has on one side a broad

## platform. The attention of a visitor is soon

## attracted to a sort of table or high bench

## having four legs; one of these tables stands in the

## vicinity of nearly every hut. These articles are

called *baras*, they are from forty to sixty

## inches high, and are not in every village

## of this region, on the coast as well as among

## the mountains. These tables are the centre

## and resting places of the men. When the

## food is ready, the wooden dishes are placed

## on the table, the guests and the host sit

## down on it, and can then eat their meals with-

## out being annoyed by the pigs and dogs that

## swarm about the villages. When the meal

is over, the *baras* are laid down on the

## baras, which now assume the place of a couch

or bedstead. The *baras* are only made use

## of by the men, never by the women, who

## squat about on the ground. The open space

## around which the huts stand is not generally

## in the form of a circle, being in some places

## oval, in others either of a long narrow, or of

## an S-shape, according to the ground.

## A village consists of several of such groups

## of huts standing around an open space, and

## joined by narrow paths. A dense forest

## hems in the village. Each group has a

## special name.

## The huts do not stand on posts, most of

## them are small and dark, but they are all

## strongly and well built, particularly the

## roof, which do not present a straight sur-

## face but are convex towards the outside, so

## as to allow the rain water to flow off more

## freely. The walls of the huts are made of

## split bamboo, the stalk of sap-wood or

## roughly split timber. The door is placed

## twenty inches above the ground, to prevent

## the ingress of the mud and water.

## On the whole, three kinds of huts can be

## distinguished—those of single individuals,

those of families, and the so-called *baras*.

## The first kind, which is the smallest, is

## from six to eight paces long, has an

## open entrance, which is in very low in-

## stances shaded by a small round projecting

## roof. The second is from ten to fifteen

## paces long; it usually has in front a half-

## round jutting covered by a separate roof;

## the entrance is much smaller still. Lastly,

the *baras*, which is a large hut, but prin-

cipally used by the men. It serves also as a sleeping-place for the young people, and for the guests from other villages. In it one notices thick long low round trees, which play an important part in the life of the Papuans. These stems, called *baras*, are similar to the tick-sided clumsy canoes, and rest on two cross-beams. About the middle of the outside of them a rubbed off and flattened part is seen; if this place is struck with a stick of the thickness of an arm a dull loud sound is produced. This sound can be heard along the coast at a distance of at least five or six nautical miles. All important events are communicated to the neighbouring villages by the *baras*. The advance of an enemy, the death of a man, the holding of a feast, are all denoted to the surrounding country by the succession of loud and soft strokes, and the length of the pause between them. In every village some particularly good performers on the *baras* are met with.

It is singular that nearly all the inhabi-

## being held firmly by the knee or the foot

## against the ground, the Papuan then moves

## the cord rapidly to and fro with accelerated

## motion till the dry coconut fibres, placed

## underneath catch fire. This way of getting

## a fire is very common, and takes a Papuan

## half an hour to light. Among the

## mountains, too, they are very careful not

## to let their fires go out. The inhabitants

## on the coast told me repeatedly that they

## often have to obtain a fire from other

## villages, if the fire in all their huts should

## have been accidentally allowed to die out.

## THE INVENTION OF A FIRE.

## The Papuans possess the greater part of the

## day outside the huts. The large open space

## around which these stand has enough room

## and shade to allow the villagers to perform

## all their household work in the open air, and

## to prepare their evening meals at the fires

## lit up in front of every dwelling. The huts

## are, however, a few paces and placed

## serve principally as store-rooms and places

## of refuge. According to the size of the hut

one or several *baras* (high and broad bamboo

## benches) are placed alongside the walls.

## Beneath the roof, a room, with a separate

## door, which is reached by a ladder, is often

## met with. This room is used to keep fire

## in. Bundles of alga and bamboo hang up in

## roofs, and having a certain arrangement, are

## which are reserved for festive occasions, are

## also sometimes found there. To the collar

## beam a rope is tied, holding on the lower

## end a menu (a stick having several hooks).

## Above the stick a piece of the outside

## covering of the base of sap-palm leaves is

## fastened, so that the rope runs

## through the hole. This is an

## arrangement to ward off the numerous

## mice, which devour during the night-time all

## the eatables in the huts. Gun-jambit, and

## other food requiring protection from the

## mice, are wrapped in leaves, and hung on the

## hooks of the menu. To the collar-beam

## there is also usually hung a sort of flag

## of palm-leaf, having a certain arrangement

## against the rain. In this basket the remains of the

## previous supper are kept in pots, or tubs,

## for the next meal.

## Besides a few spears, several arrows, and

## other weapons for hunting and fishing, the

## above enumerates all that is contained in the

## huts of the Papuans. It may be difficult to

## imagine the dwelling of these articles of

## comfort, and yet these few composing all the

## property of the inmates.

The larger and open huts (*baras*) which

## have been already mentioned, have

## sometimes also an upper chamber, which

## is also used as a store-room. Along the

## walls numerous jaw bones of the pigs killed

## for festive occasions, and skeletons of fish,

## roasts seen among the trees, and the path

## ends in an open space, surrounded by

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## THE LONDON ASSURANCE

## INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER

## OF

## THE MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY

## A.D. 1720.

## The undersigned, having been appointed

## Agents for the above Corporation, are

## prepared to grant Insurances as follows:

## MARINE DEPARTMENT.

## Policies at current rates, payable either here

## in London, or at the principal Ports of India,

## China, and Australia.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

## Policies issued for long or short periods at

## current rates.

## A discount of 20% allowed.

## LIFE DEPARTMENT.

## Policies issued for sums not exceeding £5,000,

## on reasonable terms.

## HOLLIDAY, WISE &amp; Co.

## 1132 Hongkong, 27th July, 1875.

## YANGTZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

## OF SHANGHAI.

## NOTICE.

## We and after this date the above Association

## will allow a Discount of THIRTY

## PER CENT. on Local Risks only.

## RUSSELL &amp; Co.

## 1132 Hongkong, 4th June, 1875.

## PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

## LIMITED.

## FROM this date, until further notice, a dis-

## count of Twenty per cent. (20%) upon the

## current local rates of premium will be allowed

## upon insurances effected with this Company.

## DOUGLAS LAFRAIK &amp; Co.

## 1132 Hongkong, 27th July, 1875.

## POSITIVE GOVERNMENT SECURITY

## LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

## LIMITED.

## CHAS. H. MOHGAN,

## 1132 Hongkong, 18th June, 1875.

## THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND

## FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF

## BATAVIA.

## The undersigned, having been appointed

## Agents in Hongkong for the above Com-

## pany, are prepared to grant Policies upon

## all kinds of property, and to insure

## against fire, on all kinds of property, and to

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